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REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE
Borough of Barnstaple
FOR THE YEAR 1962



BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone No:
Barnstaple 2591.

Public Health Department,
The Castle,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1962

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.



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REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1962.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimated population figure for the Borough was 15,650 : an increase of 130 over the previous year.

The total number of births was 289, and the total number of deaths was 228. Three infants died within 18 hours of birth, and death was due in each case to either prematurity or congenital abnormalities. There were no other infant deaths under the age of one year. Between the ages of 1 - 14 years there occurred five deaths, two of which were due to road accidents, one being a child of two years and the other four years.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year, and the number of new cases notified was three. No cases of diphtheria or infantile paralysis were notified, and there were no cases of food poisoning.

The new Abbeyfields Junior Training Centre was opened during the year. These premises will provide instructional and teaching facilities for up to 60 children. A Hostel is in process of construction conveniently close to the Centre, and this will provide weekly boarding accommodation for children who would otherwise have to travel some considerable distance each day.

By the end of the year, the new Girls' Secondary Modern School was nearing completion, and although the new school was designed for 480 pupils, at the time of writing this Report additional new sectional classrooms have had to be erected to relieve overcrowding.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help and interest given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee in the work of the Department, and also the Department Staff for their co-operation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE
YEAR 1962/63

His Worship the Mayor - Councillor S. W. Woolaway, J.P.

Chairman - Alderman G. Casey

Aldermen - F. A. Dunning

Miss M. K. Howard

W. H. Wilkey, J.P.

Councillors - W. J. Bond

A. C. Dibble

J. Gifford

R. M. Huxtable

F. A. H. Molland, J.P.

J. H. Rayner

S T A F F

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers -

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,650
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.1963)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£623,771
Product of a Penny Rate (Estimate, Year 1962/63)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,214
General Rate for Year 1962/63	...	...	...	...	...	...	22/6
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1963)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,958
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31.12.1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,231
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.1

Extracts from Vital Statistics -

Births : Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.03
Deaths	"	"	"	...	...	0.81

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.46
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Fact.	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.01

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births 5.53

Stillbirths -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.00

Total Live and Still Births ... 294

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year) ... 3

Infant Mortality Rates -

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.38
Legit. " " " " Legit. " " ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.32
Illeg. " " " " Illeg. " " ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62.5

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... 10.38

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... 10.38

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births) ... 27.21

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) -

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.56
"	"	"	"	"	"	adjusted by Comp. Fact.		11.79

POPULATION, BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1946 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (<u>Regist.Gen. Estimate</u>)	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1946	15,810	336	232
1947	15,960	369	265
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951 (Census)	16,110	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961	15,520	280	284
1962	15,650	289	228

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 289 live births, which was 9 more than occurred during 1961.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate	131	142	273
Illegitimate	6	10	16
	<u>137</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>289</u>
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>

The number of home confinements was 68, which is approximately 23% of the total live births.

	<u>North Devon</u> <u>Infirmary</u>	<u>Highfield</u> <u>Maternity Home</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Bicclescombe</u> <u>Hospital,</u> <u>Ilfracombe</u>
	53	139	68	9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	18.46
" " " " " " adjusted by Comp.Fact.				19.01
Birth Rate for England & Wales			...	18.0

The Birth Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1962 is as follows :-

1946 ... 21.25	1952 ... 16.32	1958 ... 16.04
1947 ... 23.12	1953 ... 16.05	1959 ... 18.64
1948 ... 19.8	1954 ... 15.90	1960 ... 17.28
1949 ... 18.0	1955 ... 15.60	1961 ... 18.58
1950 ... 14.32	1956 ... 15.34	1962 ... 19.01
1951 ... 16.15	1957 ... 16.67	

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	0.31
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births ..			17.00

DEATHS -

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 228, as compared with a figure of 284 in 1961.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
91	137	228

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	14.56
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Fact...					11.79
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	11.9

The Death Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1962 is as follows :-

1946 ...	14.67	1952 ...	9.65	1958 ...	12.24
1947 ...	16.6	1953 ...	15.41	1959 ...	11.29
1948 ...	15.12	1954 ...	11.42	1960 ...	12.43
1949 ...	11.39	1955 ...	11.54	1961 ...	15.36
1950 ...	10.8	1956 ...	12.25	1962 ...	11.79
1951 ...	11.81	1957 ...	12.68		

The following table gives Causes of Death :-

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	...	...			-	-	-
" - Other	...	...	...		-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...		-	1	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	...	...			-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...		-	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases					-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	...				1	2	3
" " - Lung, Bronchus...					7	3	10
" " - Breast	...	...			-	8	8
" " - Uterus	...	...			-	6	6
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms					10	8	18
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...		2	-	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..				9	18	27
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...			16	22	38
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...				1	3	4
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...		19	34	53
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...			3	2	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	-

- continued over :-

Causes of Death (continued)

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...				1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...			-	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...				1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...		1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...		2	-	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...			-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...		1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..				7	9	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...		-	1	1
All Other Accidents	...	...	...		1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...			-	-	-
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				<u>TOTAL</u>	91	137	228
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year	...	3	45 - 64 years	...	35
1 - 4 years	...	2	65 - 74 "	...	53
5 - 14 "	...	3	75 - 84 "	...	76
15 - 24 "	...	-	85 - 94 "	...	48
25 - 44 "	...	6	95 + "	...	2

Neo-natal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :-

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	1	-	1

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 10.38

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, 3 infants died under the age of 1 year, viz :-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	1	1	2
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 10.38

The following table gives causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year :-

<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
1		5 hours	Rachischisis; Atelectasis.
1		8½ "	Prematurity.
	1	18 "	Atelectasis; Prematurity.

Maternal Mortality : NIL.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 45 deaths from Cancer during the year, the same number as in 1961.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach ...	1	2	3
Lungs & Bronchus ...	7	3	10
Breast ...	-	8	8
Uterus ...	-	6	6
Other ...	10	8	18
	<u>18</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>45</u>

Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus -

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Year 1950	...	3	-	3
1951	...	2	-	2
1952	...	2	-	2
1953	...	3	3	6
1954	...	5	1	6
1955	...	5	-	5
1956	...	8	-	8
1957	...	6	1	7
1958	...	9	-	9
1959	...	4	1	5
1960	...	13	2	15
1961	...	9	1	10
1962	...	7	3	10

Cancer of the lung in Males decreased from 9 in 1961 to 7 in 1962, but in Females the number increased from 1 to 3.

The total number of cancer deaths, and the percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths since 1948 are shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>----- Males</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths ----- Females</u>	<u>----- Total</u>	<u>Percentage Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</u>
1948	242	11	24	35	14.4%
1949	227	13	17	30	13.1%
1950	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	284	26	19	45	15.8%
1962	228	18	27	45	19.7%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1962, arranged in age-groups :-

Age Groups	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tuberculosis			TOTAL
					Pulmonary	Meninges & C.N.S.	Other	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 +	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 9 yrs.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 - 34 "	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
45 - 64 "	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	5
65 and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	1 *	3	4	1 **	3 ***	-	-	12

* Erysipelas : To Kingsley Hospital, Bideford.

** Puerperal Pyrexia : Mastitis.

*** Tuberculosis : 1 "re-activated" case.
1 case diagnosed at Hawley Hospital.
1 case diagnosed at North Devon Infirmary.

Very few infectious diseases occurred during the year.

There were no cases of Infantile Paralysis within the town, and no cases of Diphtheria, the last case of this disease occurred 17 years ago.

Three Lung Tuberculosis notifications were received, and arrangements were made in each case for a check at the Chest Clinic of all relatives and close contacts. Owing to the decline in this disease, it is proposed that the Hawley Chest Hospital should close in 1963.

No cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported during the year. In this group would be included tuberculosis of bone, meninges, urinary tract, etc.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning.

The Mass Radiography Unit made a short visit to the town with the object of examining employees of local firms and factories, and this included one factory where a case of tuberculosis had recently been discovered. All positive re-actors and contacts to tuberculin tests were also x-rayed, also the Nursing Staff of the Hospital and any special cases referred by General Practitioners.

The total number examined was 946, and the findings of the survey were :-

(A) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS -

1. Newly discovered significant cases		
(a) requiring treatment	... ..	Nil
(b) requiring further observation	... ..	Nil
2. Healed cases : no further action	... ..	9
3. Previously known cases	... ..	3

(B) OTHER CONDITIONS -

Congenital cardiovascular disease	... ..	1
Acquired cardiovascular disease	... ..	1
Chronic Bronchitis	... ..	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	... ..	2
Minor abnormalities	... ..	5

TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
(arranged according to age)

Age Groups	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 "	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	1	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	1	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	3	-	-	-

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR

Age Groups	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 "	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 "	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 "	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	-	-	-	-

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1946

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>
1946	15	0.94	13	0.82
1947	9	0.56	6	0.37
1948	11	0.68	6	0.37
1949	5	0.31	3	0.18
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	0	Nil
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	0	Nil
1957	6	0.37	0	Nil
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06
1962	3	0.19	0	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December, 1962 :

1962	Pulmonary			Non-Fulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	73	44	117	9	12	21
31st December	68	37	105	9	10	19

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective Immunization and Vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis, are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are two Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority in Barnstaple. These are held at Sticklepath and at the Alexandra Road Clinic each week.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. The more needy cases are visited by the Health Visitors, and, in instances of ill-health, by the District Nurses. They are also assisted in running their own homes through the Home Help Scheme. This is operated locally by the W.V.S. through Mrs. M. Hughes for the Devon County Council, and extends into all the North Devon rural area wherever transport is available.

There are now 107 Home Helps, full-time and part-time, and these cover the Barnstaple Borough and Rural Districts.

During the year, 658 cases were dealt with. Of these, at least 49 old people are being cared for, who, but for the services of the Home Help Scheme, would have to go into hospital or a Welfare Home.

There are 22 blind persons who are being cared for, and during the year there were also 35 maternity cases at which the Home Helps assisted in the homes.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, District Nurse, or Hospital Almoner may have the services of a Home Help.

The W.V.S. have also arranged a rota of helpers who visit the aged in their homes, take them magazines, and do their shopping for them, etc.

The W.V.S. also run an 'S.O.S.' Window Card Scheme for elderly persons. These cards, which are provided by the local Rotarians, are issued to elderly people who are living alone.

At the back of the card is written the name of the family doctor, the nearest relative, etc. The idea is that, should any assistance be required, a card is put in the window, and help is forthcoming. About 40 old people have these cards, and it gives them a sense of security to know that help can be obtained. The Police are aware of this system.

WELFARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY -

Elderly persons who no longer wish to remain in their own homes can, if they so desire, be accommodated at the County Welfare Homes. These include Beech House Welfare Home, South Molton, which has accommodation for 100 elderly persons of both sexes. At Torrington there is the Torridge View County Welfare Home with accommodation for 70 (ladies only). At Barnstaple the County Council are having built a new Welfare Home at Vicarage Street which will provide accommodation for 39 persons. This building will be completed early in 1963.

For elderly persons who do not wish to avail themselves of the County Welfare Home service, but prefer to make their own private arrangements for accommodation, there exist three private Welfare Homes within the Borough which are registered by the Devon County Council.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home. No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

"MEALS ON WHEELS" -

This is a service also provided by the W.V.S. A two-course meal is prepared and delivered to the homes of the aged for a charge of 1/- per head. Approximately 39 meals are delivered each Wednesday during the year, and they are greatly appreciated.

HOUSING -

Four Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed during the year. They consisted of dwellings in the Higher Maudlin Street, Holland Street, Lower Church Street, and Silver Street areas. 36 dwellings in all were represented as being unfit. In confirming the Orders, the Minister re-classified three of the dwellings from "pink" to "pink-hatched-yellow".

Of the last of dwellings scheduled by the Borough Council in June 1960 as being unfit, there now remain a further 41 properties to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Scheme.

Improvement to 34 dwellings by means of Standard Grants was approved of by the Council during the year. Of these 34, 31 applications were made by owner-occupiers, and there were 3 applications only for improvements to houses which are occupied by tenants.

There are in the town a number of substantial, well-built tenanted houses which lack the amenities of modern houses, and which could be improved, but the response from the owners has been disappointing.

The total number of houses erected by the Council during the year was 30, and the number of dwellings built privately was 65.

The total number of applicants from within the Borough for Council houses was 140 at the end of the year.

WATER SUPPLIES -

The water supply to the Borough has been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water to the Borough is supplied by the North Devon Water Board. The water intake is from two sources : one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town. This water gravitates to the treatment works at Pilton where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds, and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistland-pound. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 88 bacteriological samples were submitted for examination : all were satisfactory.

One sample of water was taken from a shallow well serving a farm in the Borough. The result was very satisfactory and equivalent to a Class I piped supply.

SEWERAGE -

Sewage from the Borough lying on the north bank of the River Taw is untreated. There are four outfalls through which sewage is discharged, three of which open directly into the River Taw, and one into the Bradiford Water.

The Pilton East sewer was extended during the year to serve three new properties which are under construction: these are the Girls' Secondary Modern School, the Junior Training Centre, and the Abbeyfields Hostel. To this sewer, 37 dwellings previously on septic tank drainage, were also connected.

The majority of properties in the town are connected to the main sewer, with the exception of a small number of dwellings in the Raleigh area which are on earth closets, and dwellings in the Newport area which are on septic tanks.

With regard to the proposed North Bank Sewage Treatment Works, the Council have asked their Consultant Engineers to submit preliminary plans.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

TUBERCULOSIS -

Hawley Hospital, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds, but owing to the decline in T.B. cases it is intended to close this Hospital during the coming year.

MATERNITY CASES -

At The North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 14 beds for maternity cases, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for maternity and ante-natal patients, and during the year 9 Barnstaple births took place at this Hospital.

There are also 4 beds for maternity cases at Braunton Nursing Home, but no Barnstaple births occurred there in 1962.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases section to the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

The Smallpox Hospital, to which any cases of Smallpox will be sent, is Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter. Medical Officers of Health have been asked that where a suspected case of Smallpox is brought to their notice, the Medical Officer-in-Charge of the Isolation Hospital should be informed as soon as possible, as there may be a slight delay before the Hospital is ready to receive patients. Telephone : Upton Pyne Hospital (through the Isolation Hospital) - Whipton, Exeter 67158.

Special ambulance transport for the conveyance of Smallpox cases is obtainable from : Exeter 55485.

GENERAL -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards, with a total of 33 beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, are set aside as an Annexe to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

LABORATORY -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out there.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V.D. Clinic : This is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

<u>Males</u>	(Mondays, 5.15 p.m.	<u>Females</u>	(Mondays, 4.00 p.
	(Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.		(Thursdays, 4.30 p.

Chest Clinic : held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :

Sessions

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Clinic & X-Ray Examinations

Infant Welfare Clinics : There are two Infant Welfare Centres in Barnstaple, and it is proposed to set up an additional Centre on the Forches Housing Estate when suitable premises are obtainable.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held on the following days :-

Alexandra Road Clinic -

Every Tuesday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.
Every Thursday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall Clinic, Sticklepath -

2nd & 4th Friday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Dental Clinic : held daily at the Alexandra Road Clinic, for expectant mothers, school children, and children under 5 years.

Eye Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic every 2nd Friday of each month, for school-children and children under 5 years.

Ante-Natal Clinic : at Alexandra Road Clinic, held by the District Nurses and Health Visitors every Monday afternoon. The Physio-therapist from the Hospital is also in attendance.

Family Planning Clinic. This Clinic is run by the Exeter and District Women's Welfare Association, and is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 113 Boutport Street. A lady doctor is in attendance. A Birth Control Clinic is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month between 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. at the same centre. Visits by appointment only.

Hearing Clinic : This is held at the Alexandra Road Clinic on the 3rd Tuesday of the month between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for school-children and children under 5 years.

A Specialist Hearing Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary on the 4th Wednesday of the month, between 2 and 4 p.m. for school-children and children under 5 years.

Minor Ailments Clinic : held each Friday morning, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Speech Therapy : held each Wednesday at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Chiropody Service : This service is now available at the Alexandra Road Clinic, for persons over 60, for the handicapped, and for expectant mothers. There is a small charge of 2/6d. where foot dressings are required, but the service is free for Old Age Pensioners and expectant mothers.

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple, Telephone : Barnstaple 2600. The staff consists of three paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES -

There are 2 District Nurses and 3 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at The North Devon Athenaeum for the following information :-

Barometer : Highest reading 30.6 inches on 4th December, 1962.
 Lowest " 28.9 " " 5th November, 1962.

Temperature : Maximum 76° on 25th July, 1962.
 Minimum 15° on 26th December, 1962.
 Mean for the Year 47°.

Rainfall : 28.98 inches.
 Average for preceding 10 years 35.20 inches.
 Number of days on which .01 or more of rain fell
 = 159.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Borough's Public Health Inspectors for the Year 1962.

This was a year of no outstanding incident. One more Public Inquiry into a further phase of the campaign to abolish unfit houses was held in October, and was the sixth to date. Even slum clearance appears to have lost its glamour. The early Public Inquiries had the air of courtroom dramas played before a crowded Guildhall: there was little interest shown in this one; but the programme, once appearing almost insuperable, has gone steadily forward, and during the year a further 42 unfit houses were demolished. Two individual unfit houses were closed. It is unfortunate that earlier clearance schemes so often overlap with later ones, trailing out for perhaps a year, or longer, after the Inquiry and subsequent confirmation by the Minister, before the last house is vacated and demolished; but this is inevitable. The emphasis is always on numbers of "houses demolished", and it is not always realised that, since the scheme was begun in 1956, about 2,000 persons have been re-housed, and that behind that statement is many a problem of individual taste, requirement, or plain stubbornness when alternative accommodation is offered. So, in this Report of the work of the Public Health Department, fitting mention must be made of the performance of the Housing Manager in accommodating this large number of "displaced persons" - a task by no means completed at the end of the year.

Meat inspection at the Public Abattoir still guarantees full employment for your Inspectors, including attendance on every Saturday and Sunday of the year. The number of animals slaughtered and inspected, at 65,173, was an increase of 1,144 on the previous year; but this is, without question, the most positive and immediate contribution of the Department to the Public Health, in that its effects

are seen without any period of development or delay.

The Abattoir itself came in for much complaint and criticism, but if the Borough's existing houses and sewers were to be used by a population of some 120,000 (not an unfair parallel) a similar state of overcrowding would result in these media.

The third main duty is the supervision of the collection and disposal of house refuse. During the year another new vehicle of compressing type, replaced one that had done service for 28 years.

A Public Inquiry was held in March into the Corporation's proposal to acquire by Compulsory Purchase, an additional 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land on Seven Brethren's Bank for disposal of refuse by controlled tipping. The Order was confirmed, and so guarantees tipping space for some 12 years at least. While being grateful for such relief from a problem which vexes many Local Authorities, it is irksome that the use of this land for tipping purposes is to be hampered by the need to leave large strips of it for proposed trunk or relief roads. The refuse tip of some years ago was the most criticised thing in the Borough, but it is fast becoming almost an object of praise, if not pride. Mechanical methods of levelling and covering the refuse are responsible for this happy change of affairs, and the Health Committee are to be congratulated for their enterprise in this direction, a lead which was followed by several other Local Authorities in the area.

In food matters, the Self-Service Store or Supermarket is fast replacing the older, smaller shop, and it is good to note that these are not mere glittering facades concealing a differing state of affairs behind, but that staff welfare and hygiene is as important as the displayed wares. While many may deplore the passing of the smaller, more personal type of food business, these newer food shops are able to provide the best in what is required to ensure clean food, and have also incited many small traders to improvements.

The only licensed Caravan Site in the Borough was greatly improved during the year: the obsolete toilet block with septic tank drainage was demolished, and a new block with laundry and hot and cold showers was built, and connected to main drainage. Other overdue improvements were in hand by the end of the year.

The foregoing refers to the main duties of the Public Health Department, and tables are appended giving details of inspections and visits made.

I am again grateful to members of the Council and to other Departments for their interest and ready co-operation at all times. Especially, my thanks are due to the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department, the happiest of teams, and, I venture to say, a fairly successful one.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION -

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	5,575
Calves	...	917
Sheep	...	43,036
Pigs	...	<u>15,645</u>
		65,173

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

45. tons 4 cwts. 1 qr. 13 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	104
Calves	...	66
Sheep	...	562
Pigs	...	<u>51</u>
		783

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was 2.03% against 10.06% in 1961.

Examinations for *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 35 cases were found, an increase of 12 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was .62% against .44% in 1961.

There is no other Slaughterhouse licensed for use in the Borough.

18 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Ministry of Health :-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Hors- es
Number killed	4,147	1,428	917	43,036	15,645	Nil
Number inspected	4,147	1,428	917	43,036	15,645	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT</u>						
<u>TUBERCULOSIS &</u>						
<u>CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	19	81	66	562	51	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	1,084	486	2	900	21	Nil
% of number insp ^d . affected with dis- ease other than T.B. & Cysticerci	26.6%	39.7%	7.4%	3.4%	0.5%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	1	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part of organ condemned ...	16	26	Nil	Nil	321	Nil
% of number insp ^d . affected with T.B.	0.4%	2.03%	Nil	Nil	2.3%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	34	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	34	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(2) FOOD PREMISES -

(a) The following is a list of Food Premises * in the Borough :-

Bread & Cakes	...	...	15
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	19
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	16
Fish (wet)	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	9
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	25
Groceries & General Provisions	...	...	62
Ice Cream	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	28
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	2
Public Houses & Hotels	...	...	40
Sweets & Confectionery	...	...	109
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)	...	...	4
			<hr/>
			389
			<hr/>

* N.B. Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business.

- (b) 161 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, viz. 48 for the Preparation of Processed Foods, and 113 for the Sale of Ice Cream.
- (c) Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

TINNED FOOD

Cocoa	...	...	3	tin(s))	
Corn (Sweet)	...	...	1	")	
Coffee	...	...	47	")	
Cream	...	...	20	")	
Eggs	...	...	3	")	
Fish	...	...	132	")	
Fruit	...	...	542	")	
Fruit Juice	...	...	31	")	
Jams, Conserves	...	...	19	")	
Jelly (Flan)	...	...	1	"	)	1,678 tins,
Lemonade Powder	...	...	11	"	)	weight :
Meat	...	...	343	"	)	<u>3,580 lbs. 5½ oz.</u>
Milk	...	...	70	")	
Milk Puddings	...	...	32	")	
Ravioli	...	...	2	")	
Soups	...	...	95	")	
Spaghetti	...	...	5	")	
Stew (Irish)	...	...	6	")	
Strained Foods (various)	...	...	8	")	
Syrup (Golden)	...	...	1	")	
Tomato Paste	...	...	6	")	
Vegetables	...	...	300	")	
			1,678	tins		

OTHER FOODS

Bacon	...	...	...	4	lbs.	0	oz.
Beetroot (23 jars)	...	...	...	18	"	9	"
Cake	...	...	...	4	"	0	"
Cake-Mix (4 bags)	...	...	...	112	"	0	"
Cheese	...	...	...	70	"	8	"
Chicken (219 whole)	...	...	...	657	"	0	"
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	115	"	0	"
Fruit (4 crates, various)	...	...	...	100	"	0	"
Fruit Jellies (8 jars)	...	...	...	2	"	0	"
Honey (2 jars)	...	...	...			8	"

- continued over:-

Other Foods (continued)

Horseradish Sauce (4 jars)	...	...	6 lbs.	4 oz.
Jam (44 jars)	...	...	44 "	0 "
Lard	...	...	28 "	0 "
Meat (Butchers' Shops)	...	...	* 983 "	8 "
Meat (opened tins)	...	...	24 "	12 "
Pickles (2 jars)	...	...	8 "	10½ "
Raisins (28 packets)	...	...	21 "	0 "
Salad Cream (8 jars)	...	...	3 "	8 "
Sandwich Spread (17 jars)	...	...	4 "	4 "
Sauce (9 bottles)	...	...	4 "	3½ "
Sausages	...	...	2 "	0 "
Vinegar (3 bottles)	...	...	6 "	0 "

2,219 lbs. 11 oz.

* includes 37 whole carcasses of
New Zealand Lamb.

(3) ICE CREAM -

25 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year for
bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

Producer	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
'A'	6	1	✓	-	7
'B'	4	-	-	-	4
'C'	9	-	-	-	9
'D'	4	1	-	-	5
TOTAL	23	2	-	-	25

(4) MILK & DAIRIES -

The number of Dairies in the Borough, registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954, is 16.

20 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of tubercle. All were negative.

(5) DISINFECTIONS -

2 Library Books disinfected (Measles & Chickenpox).

(6) DISINFESTATIONS -

31 premises were treated for pests, as follows :-

Ants (nests)	...	5
Cockroaches	...	1
Fleas	...	9
Flies	...	8
Steam Flies	...	5
Wasps (nests)	...	3

(7) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

The following Storage Licences were granted under the above Act :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	58
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	6
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	7
Petroleum Mixtures & Carbide of Calcium..	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
				72

The quantities stored were as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	191,378	gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	1,819	"
Carbide of Calcium	...	56	lbs.

The amount of fees received by the Corporation in respect of such Licences was £51. 15. 0d.

(8) EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was : 39.

(9) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during 1962 :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec ^d .
1. Factories in which S.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	17	12	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	140	110	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers' premises)	11	-	-	-
TOTAL	168	122	-	-

(9) (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instit ^d .
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	7	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	10	8	-	2	-

(9) (c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.110, 1c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	75	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace-curtains, Nets	10	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	85	-	-	-	-	-

(10) SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC :

Total visits made	...	...	3,775
Houses inspected - Public Health Acts	...	...	443
" " - P.H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	213
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	17
" " - H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	119
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	1,443
Butchers' Shops	...	...	56
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	95
Other Food Shops	...	...	448
Bakehouses	...	...	17
Milk Vehicles (including sampling)	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	21
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	41
Shops Act	...	...	1

(10) INSPECTIONS (continued)

Factories	...	...	122
Rodent Control	...	...	67
Refuse Tip	...	...	319
Petroleum Storage	...	...	15
Infectious Disease Investigations	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	39
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	Nil
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	Nil
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	58
" " - P.H.A. (secondary)	...	...	15
Verbal Notices	...	...	54

(11) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS
CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1962 :-

Nature of Works Done	Public Health Acts	Hous- ing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Fac- tories Acts
New sets of house drains laid	3	-	-	-
Drains repaired	20	-	-	-
Drains cleared	30	-	-	-
Smoke & water tests applied	8	-	-	-
New vent pipes provided	2	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	1	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	13	-	-	-
New soil pipes fixed	3	-	-	-
New gullies fixed	5	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	9	-	-	-
Additional W.Cs. provided	2	-	-	-
New flushing cisterns provided	1	-	-	-
Sink waste pipes fixed	2	-	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	5	-	-	-
Rain pipes repaired	1	-	-	-
Guttering renewed or repaired	1	-	-	-
Walls repaired	1	-	-	-
Plaster repaired - external	1	-	-	-
" " - internal	2	-	-	-
Dampness remedied	1	-	-	-
New windows fixed	1	-	-	-
Windows repaired	1	-	-	-
Ceilings repaired	1	-	-	-
Staircases repaired or renewed	1	-	-	-
Yards paved	1	-	-	-
Rooms cleansed	-	-	51	7
Food protected from contamination)	-	-	8	-
Bins provided	14	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations removed	1	-	-	-
Vermin and other pests erad- icated)	31	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	3	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	65	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	42	-	-
Houses closed	-	2	-	-

